

	INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF CHILD SERVICES CHILD WELFARE POLICY	
	Tool: Suggested Interview Questions for the Child	Effective Date: May 1, 2009
	Reference: 4.D (4.9 – Interviewing Children)	Version: 1

Suggested Interview Questions for the Child

Sometimes when parents fight they get angry. Sometimes this is scary for children. I want to ask you a few questions about when your parents fight and what you think about it.

1. Arguments happen in all families. What happens when your mom and dad (boyfriend, partner, etc.) argue? What do they argue about?
2. What do you do when mom and dad (boyfriend, partner, etc.) are fighting?
 - a. Stay in the room.
 - b. Go to a sibling.
 - c. Leave or hide.
 - d. Ask parents to stop.
 - e. Phone someone.
 - f. Go for help.
 - g. Other.
3. What do you think about when this is happening?
4. When mom and dad (boyfriend, partner, etc.) are fighting, what do you worry about the most?
5. Do they ever get hurt?
6. Have you ever gotten hurt when they were fighting?
7. Have you ever tried to stop the fighting? What happened?
8. Do you find that you think about your parents fighting a lot?
 - a. When do you think about it?
 - b. What do you think about?
 - c. Do these thoughts ever come in school or while you are playing?
9. Do you ever have trouble sleeping at night? Why? Do you have nightmares?
10. Have you talked to any other grownups about this problem? What happened?
11. Does your mom or dad (boyfriend, partner, etc.) own any weapons? Do you know where they keep them at?
12. What would you like them to do to make it better?
13. In an emergency, who would you call?
 - a. Their phone number is: _____.
 - b. What would you say?

If children don't have some idea of whom to call, give them basic information or help them think of where they could go if their parents are fighting. Information gathered in this interview should always be shared with the adult victim to help them understand the effects of domestic violence on the children, as long as the children's safety will not be compromised.